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AUTHOR Rothlisberg, Allen P.
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ABSTRACT

The Department of Library/Media Technology at Northland Pioneer College (Arizona) provides librarians in rurally isolated Navajo and Apache Counties in northeastern Arizona with for-credit, one-day classes tailored to their specific needs. Students receive 0.5 to 1.0 hours of permanent, transcripted credit for each workshop. Up to 3 credit hours earned in these workshops can be applied toward Northland Pioneer College's library/media technology certificate or degree program. Brief descriptions of nine workshops offered during the 1991-92 school year are provided: (1) Library Friends and Volunteers; (2) Grant Writing for Library/Media; (3) Library Advocacy; (4) Library Telecommunications; (5) Book Repair; (6) Grateful Med Search Strategies; (7) County Library District; (8) Defending Arizona's Libraries; and (9) Cooperative Planning/Librarians Teachers. (KRN)

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SHORT TERM WORKSHOPS FOR ACADEMIC CREDIT: A NEW APPROACH TO CONTINUING EDUCATION IN LIBRARY/MEDIA TECHNOLOGY

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by

Allen P. Rothlisberg.
Program Coordinator
Department of Library/Media Technology

Northland Pioneer College
Holbrook, Arizona
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SHORT TERM WORKSHOPS FOR ACADEMIC CREDIT:
A NEW APPROACH TO CONTINUING EDUCATION
IN LIBRARY/MEDIA TECHNOLOGY

The Department of Library/Media Technology has been set up to meet the needs of all kinds of libraries (public, special, school, and academic) in rurally isolated Navajo and Apache Counties in Northeastern Arizona. The area is sparcely populated, and opportunities for continuing education in library/media technology are developed with the special needs of these libraries in mind. Surveys are mailed out periodically during the academic year, and library employees are encouraged to choose what areas especially appeal to them. The surveys are tallied and short courses set up. Most of the classes are one day in length. Students attending receive pass/fail grades in most cases. A few courses have letter grade options. Some of the courses are set up with the encouragement of the Arizona State Library Association, the Arizona Educational Media Association, and the Library Extension Division of the Arizona State Department of Library and Archives. Tuition is $12.00 per credit hour for in-state residents and $6.00 for .5 credit for in-state residents. Most of the workshops are offered for .5 credit. All of the workshops are offered as LIB 199 - Workshop courses, but the individual title of the workshop varies. Students enrolled in the library/media technology certificate and/or degree program may count 3 credits of LIB 199 courses as partial requirements toward their degrees. Most courses are held on Fridays, because

this day appeals to the majority of those attending. Often it is necessary to hold classes on other days, in order to meet travel requirements of guest instructors. The Library/Media Department would rather offer short courses for credit because this gives each student attending permanent transcripted credit. Continuing education workshops are not always transcripted, and individuals receiving only continuing education may have difficulty proving that they attended a specific function if a completion certificate is lost. With transcripted credit, a student need only request a transcript of courses completed. Transcripts at Northland Pioneer College are priced at $2.00 each. Because we offer these classes for credit, we are able to pay instructors an applicable sliding sale for courses taught, providing they are certified by the Arizona State Board for Community Colleges. Guest instructors are paid $200.00 for each .5 credit course taught, providing that there are 16 students enrolled. Salaries may also be prorated if the instructor elects to teach a course for a lower fee. It is also possible to get guest instructors who are specialists in their fields to teach for one day, where this may be impossible if the instructors are required to teach on a weekly basis. We are unable to pay travel expenses at this time, but most guest instructors are happy to teach for the stipend offered. The students are pleased with the opportunity that they have had to achieve continuing education close to their homes with relevant

subject matter that they could take and use in their libraries immediately. During the 1991-1992 school year, we have offered the following short courses:

LIB 199 - Library Friends and Volunteers Workshop - 1 credit

Many of the public libraries in the area were interested in starting friends groups and working with volunteers because in most cases they are working in one person libraries. The instructor for this class had more than thirty years experience working with friends and volunteers in Arizona public libraries. She was instrumental in creating a new library in a community where a library was badly needed after working with her students. Other students gained valuable insights in how to set up volunteer and friends groups in rural public libraries.

LIB 199 - Grant Writing for Library/Media - 1 credit

This course was a practical hands on class which allowed the student to work on a particular grant of interest, or to investigate particular library grants available. In order to get a letter grade, the student had to write a grant. Each student received a packet of grant writing materials for the beginners. The instructor had many years experience in public library management. She was instrumental in getting many grants for a major Arizona public library system.

LIB 199 - Library Advocacy Workshop - 1 credit

Working in today's library arena is very political. How do you get your voice heard? How do you get your share of the action? How do you get your share of the funding? What does it take to be a library advocate? All of these questions were answered by the instructor who had been highly involved in library legislation presented to the Arizona State Legislature.

LIB 199 - Library Telecommunications Workshop - .5 credit

How has the telecommunications industry impacted libraries? How can telecommunications and computers be connected and networked? How do dial-up on-line catalogs work? How can you access them in Arizona? What computerized bulletin boards are most advantageous? This course was taught by computer and library professionals at the request of the Extension Division, Arizona State Department of Library and Archives.

LIB 199 - Book Repair Workshop - .5 credit

A workshop on book repair is generally always needed in most library settings. This workshop was conducted by a representative from Demco Library Supplies, who came through on his way to the Arizona State Library Association Convention in Phoenix. Each participant went home with a book repair starter kit.

LIB 199 - Grateful Med Search Strategies Workshop - 1 credit

Grateful Med is a new program which assists the user in searching databases maintained and generated by the National Library of Medicine. Students were given considerable on-line time in this course taught by a medical librarian from the Rural Health Office of the University of Arizona College of Medicine, Tucson. This course is helpful as an introduction to on-line searching, and especially helpful to those in the medical profession.

LIB 199 - County Library District Workshop - .5 credit

Arizona public library development is heavily dependent on county library districts as information and training vehicles for public libraries. Navajo County is the only county in the state without a county library. What is involved in the creation of a county library district? What advantages would there be for libraries in the district? What disadvantages? All of these questions were answered by librarians from the Extension Division, Arizona Department of Library, Archives and Public Records, Phoenix.

LIB 199 - Defending Arizona's Libraries Workshop - .5 credit

What is involved in defending Arizona's libraries? What local implications are there? How do you get others involved? This workshop is an outgrowth of the national White House Conference on Libraries held in Washington, D. C. in the summer of 1991. It was held at the suggestion of the Extension Division, Arizona Department of Library, Archives and Public Records, Phoenix.

LIB 199 - Cooperative Planning/Librarians Teachers - 1 cr.

How do you get librarians and teacher's to cooperate to get maximum use of the materials you have in your collection? How can the librarian be involved in creative lesson planning? These questions and others were answered in a course taught by a high school librarian with many years of expertise in getting librarians and teachers to cooperate in creative ways.

The possibilities of future short courses appear limitless. As the need is made apparent, more short courses will be developed. All of the individuals taking whatever classes are developed will have permanent transcripted records of their accomplishments.